



GRACE

Viviendo por Gracia
Lutheran Church & School

God is Good

November 18, 2018

Dear Church,

O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good; for his mercy endures forever.

1 Chronicles 16:34

It takes a miracle worked by the Holy Spirit for us to say that God is good—and mean it from the depths of our heart. Without that change of heart, any thanks we give to him is conditional.

If we say that we have a good car or a good job, we mean that it is usually good. We admit that these things are not always, nor completely, good. After all, we say: “Nothing is perfect.”

We will still call it a good car even if its mileage is not so good, and we will label it as a good job even if there are parts to it that irritate us. After all, “Nothing is perfect.”

Most are willing to say that God is good, with that same stipulation.

Honesty demands that we sometimes question how good God is. When we get a raise, when we gain success, when things are going our way—then we see God is good.

We are not as sure when our plans hit the skids, when success slips through our fingers, when a loved one dies, or when we wake up on a bed of pain.

We admit that God is powerful. After all, who is going to stop him from what he plans to do? We will agree that God is holy. Our conscience and his Word testify to that. But if he is so good, why does he allow bad things to happen? Why doesn't he step in to pull his child out of harm's way? Why does he apparently allow evil to prevail?

More than one warrior has asked, “Where is God?” when he saw unspeakable calamity strike. “Was God MIA when my brothers were ambushed?” “Did he not care when my battle buddy was captured and tortured?” “Are words written on the wall at COP Restrepo true? Does God hate us all forever?”

Is God always and completely good? Is he the one exception to “Nothing is perfect”?

He is. Whether we believe it or not, see it or not, or understand it or not.

We look at life as through eyes with cataracts. Our view is dim. It is distorted. It is partial. We often cannot see God’s goodness even when we are staring at it.

We do not deserve his goodness. We must beg him not to treat us as we deserve. We do not want to limit him to our understanding of what might be good.

He is goodness personified. That means there is nothing wrong with him. That means he is holy.

And we are not.

What we deserve is worse than we could imagine in our worst nightmare.

But our God does not give us what we deserve. He gives us what is good for us. He deals with us in mercy.

Mercy washes over our scabs and infections. Mercy washes us clean.

Mercy makes us forgiven, restored, renewed. Mercy makes us good.

Surely, we will thank him for being who he is and doing what he has done for us.

He is good! And thank goodness, his mercy endures forever.

Prayer: *Hear our prayer of thanksgiving, God of goodness and mercy. Flood us with your goodness. Cover us with your mercy. Fill us with joyful faith. Permit us to have a happy Thanksgiving. Amen.*

Written by Pastor Paul Ziemer, WELS National Civilian Chaplain and Liaison to the Military, Cape Coral, Florida.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ESL - English Classes as an outreach tool are being prepared and promoted to our community. The date has been postponed until after the Thanksgiving holiday. We will begin November 28th at 6PM and continue through the week before Christmas. If you're interested in helping, please contact Pastor Zastrow Thanks!

Camerata Concert – This Sunday, November 18th at 5PM at Englewood Christian Church on Englewood north of 40th Ave. This men's group, directed by Mike Martin will be having their fall concert. Free will offering graciously accepted.

Church Advent Preparation – Come one and all to church on Saturday, December 1 at 9:30 to put up our tree and decorate our narthex and sanctuary. Men are especially needed for the tree and ladder work! The more the merrier! Coffee and donuts will be served.

Save the Date – Please join us at Grace for our Annual Children's Christmas program on Thursday, December 20th at 6PM. Don't miss out!

Church Christmas Party – On Sunday, December 23rd. During our regular coffee hour, Group 8 will be hosting a celebration of the season. They will set-up, do the coffee, provide punch and other goodies. We are also asking the congregation to bring a favorite snack item to share. Please remain so we can share with our Spanish members after their service. Thank you! Merry Christmas and Feliz Navidad!

Annual German Service – Frohe Weihnachten! To be announced soon!

Start the New Year off Right - Pacific Northwest First Annual WELS/ELS Volleyball Tournament

When: Saturday, January 19th, 2019

Time: Tournament begins around 9am, individual team start times TBD later

Where: Evergreen Lutheran High School

7306 Waller Rd. E.

Tacoma, WA 96443

See Flyer on board in the Narthex

Dear Church, - Mike and I will be out of town Thanksgiving week. There will be no Streams on Sunday November 25. Please submit to me all your events for the December calendar and I will put it out on December 2. Here is a sneak preview of what I have so far.

Message from Evan Turiff

Hey there! I'm taking a trip to Argentina with other like-minded people who are also going to Martin Luther College for Spanish teaching/pastoral ministry for an immersion/cultural experience. We will be taking a month's worth of classes as well as doing various excursions around Buenos Aires. We are getting much needed experience that you just can't get in a classroom or in the States. Our programs require 1, sometimes even 2 immersion trips. All of the students have to pay for this on top of their regular tuition and it severely limits our power to earn money in the summer. Any help given will be appreciated!

My goal with this program is to be a world missionary preaching to the people of Latin America. On top of providing the word, we also help provide basic medical supplies, school supplies, and basic home necessities!

Any excess money will be split between others going on the trip.

In Christ,

Evan Turriff

Here is the web link to donate to Evan's trip online with a credit card:

<https://www.gofundme.com/spanish-immersion-in-argentina>

Or you can mail a check or cash donation to his home address:

Evan Turriff
6406 Anglia Valley Dr.
Arlington, TN 38002



Submitted by Juliane Naumann

Upcoming

- Sunday, November 18, 5 PM – Camerata Concert
- Tuesday, November 20, 6 PM – Ladies Bible Study at Redeemer
- Wednesday, November 21, 7 PM – Thanksgiving Eve Worship
- Thursday, November 22 – Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving
- Thursday, November 29, 6PM – Choir Practice
- Saturday, December 1, 9:30AM – Church Decorating, Men Needed!

.....”*but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.*” *Joshua 24:15*

Coffee Hour – For questions call hospitality chair Connie Lehmann at 457-3974 or assistant hospitality chair Virginia Thorne at 388-5108

Group 3 hosts for Nov. 18: Julie Larson, Dave Lennon, Donna Roth

Group 4 hosts for Nov. 25: Carol Camden, Dee Ekstrom, Lori Hoover

Group 5 hosts for Dec. 2: Lisa Lacour, Dave Teske family, Florence Teske

Group 6 hosts for Dec. 9: Catherine Ball, Lyndsay Evans, Becca Hussmann

Prayer and Praise!

Marilyn Smith – healing from surgery

Doris Sumner – recovery and strength

Corae Temple – healing and Strength

Mark Jankowski – healing for cancer

Dave Lennon – Healing and strength

Karen Jankowski – healing for back

Bill & Joy Altenhein – strength and health

Wanda Lennon – health and strength

GLS – blessings and safety

Donna Roth – Healing from shoulder surgery

GLS Bible verse: The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time. You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing. Psalm 145:15,16

Thursday Ladies Bible study had 16 in attendance this week – Praise God!

Our Homebound Members

Carol Butler

Ewald Ehlers

Jack Lott

Marlen Rieker

Norm Campeau

Anne Rhine

Dorothy Johnson

Ed Peterson

Esther Wachter

GRACE CHURCH CALENDAR

December 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Church Decorating 9:30
2 Communion ABS 8:30 English Worship 9:30 Coffee Hour 10:30 Spanish worship 10:45	3 Lydia Circle 1:30	4	5 ESL 6pm Advent Worship 7pm	6 Ladies Bible Study 12 pm Choir 6pm	7	8
9 Voter's Mtg. 8:30 English Worship 9:30 Coffee Hour 10:30 Spanish worship 10:45	10	11 Council mtg. 4:30	12 ESL 6pm Advent Worship 7pm	13 Ladies Bible Study 12 pm Choir 6pm	14	15 Men's breakfast 9am Shari's
16 Communion ABS 8:30 English Worship 9:30 Coffee Hour 10:30 Spanish worship 10:45	17	18	19 ESL 6pm Advent Worship 7pm	20 Children's Christmas program 6pm	21	22
23 ABS 8:30 English Worship 9:30 Coffee Hour 10:30 Spanish worship 10:45 Christmas Party!	24 Christmas Eve Worship 7pm	25 Christmas Day Worship 9:30	26	27	28	29
30 Communion ABS 8:30 English Worship 9:30 Coffee Hour 10:30 Spanish worship 10:45	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE				KEY: SS=Sunday School ABS=Adult Bible Study 10:45 =Spanish Service	Grace Church 1207 S. 7th Ave Yakima 457-6611